

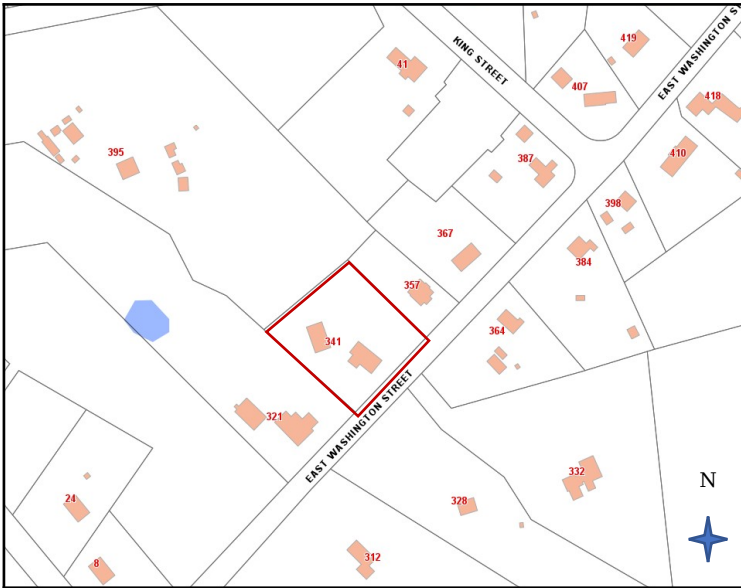
FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Town of Hanson Historical
Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2018

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

107-0-8-0

Hanover

HNS.199

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 341 East Washington Street

Historic Name: Alexander and Mary Soper
House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single-Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1750-1775

Source: White's History, Plan No. 5, Page 83,
Massachusetts Marriage Records, Visual
Assessment

Style/Form: Altered/Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite Block

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: A
large barn is located to the northwest of the house

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Vinyl
replacement windows, shed dormer across south
roof slope, two- and one-story additions to west
façade,

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .97 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main
thoroughfares in an area of predominantly single-
family homes ranging from early eighteenth
century farmhouses to late twentieth century
suburban development on large lots which
includes grass lawns and numerous mature trees,
bushes, and other vegetation.

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half story house has a Cape form and has had multiple changes over time including the addition of shed dormers across the east and west roof slopes of its large gable roof, a two-story addition to its west façade, and a one-story addition and second entrance on the south façade of the west addition. The house is wood clapboard sided with wood cornerboards and a band of wood trim around the outer edge of the gable-ends which widens into a box style return detail at its lower edges. The original double hung windows have been replaced with vinyl six-over-six double hung replacement windows. The house has two large, corbeled rectangular brick chimneys, both of which appear to be relatively new additions or to have replaced earlier chimneys on the house. The first is located in the center of the east slope of the original house while the second is located on the west façade of the one-story addition. Vinyl shutters are installed on the siding to either side of the windows on the east façade of the house.

The house faces east towards the road and has a symmetrical façade with two double hung windows located to either side of the center entrance. The eaves of the gable roof come down low over the windows and door with a narrow wood overhang. A wide wood water table which has a projecting lower edge runs along the lower edge of the wall on both the front and side facades, including on the later additions. The front entrance has a Victorian style wood door with a large oval window at its center surrounded by wide, flat wood pilasters. The door opens onto a short granite landing with granite steps leading into the yard. The wide shed dormer extends across the center of the roof and has a pair of double hung windows on each end.

The wide gable end of the south façade has two double hung windows in the gable-end and two widely spaced windows on the first floor which include a double hung window in the southeast corner of the façade and a long six-pane casement window to the southwest. The west slope of the main gable roof has been cut short by later additions. A shed dormer on the west slope of the roof stops just short of the south façade, preserving the roof trim around the gable-end's outer edge. Both the east and west shed dormers are finished to match the rest of the house, with a wide band of wood trim long the lower edge of the roof and corner boards. The west roof slope's shed dormer begins higher on the roof than the east roof slope's dormer and has a small, square window on its south façade. Behind the shed dormer, a band of solid clapboard siding below a nearly flat roof extends west to the chimney on the rear façade. Below this band of siding, a long, shed style roof extends over a one-story addition to the south façade of the west façade addition. This addition has the same wood trim and overhang seen elsewhere on the house. A double hung window is centered on its east façade and a second entrance is located in the right corner of its south façade. The door opens onto a new set of brick steps with bluestone treads. To its left is a shallow three-part bay window with a short hip roof. The bay has a double-hung window on each side and a long sloping lower edge finished in wood clapboard siding. The one-story addition extends out well beyond the south façade of the original house, and a metal bulkhead is located in the corner created by the two sections.

On the north façade, two double-hung windows of different sizes are located in the gable end. Three double hung windows are located on the first floor of the original house, the rearmost window being half the height of

Continuation sheet 3

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the other two windows. The lower edge of the northwest corner of the gable-end is overlapped by the gable roof of the west façade addition. On this façade, the addition has its own long shed dormer across its north façade. Four double hung windows line the shed dormer over two windows at the center of the first floor. The rear corner of the first floor of the addition appears to have a pair of large sliding doors but is partially screened by a tall wood fence that extends around the north and west sides of the property.

This same tall stockade fence extends from the northwest corner of the house to the southeast corner of a large barn located behind and to the left of the house. The barn has a gable-end roof over a large rectangular footprint that is nearly as large as the house itself. The gable-end roof projects out over the pediment with narrow, wood trimmed eaves and soffits and a wide cornice around its outer edge. The building also has long, narrow returns and sits at an angle to the house with its southeast corner closest to the street. The south gable end has a large, square hayloft door over two large overhead garage doors. The house is sided with wood clapboard with composite trim and cornerboards on the first floor and wood shingles on the second. A band of trim separates the two floors across the side facades. A pedestrian door is located in the southeast corner of the south façade. Three double hung windows run along the first floor of the east façade while on the second floor, four double hung windows are located at two different levels across the façade.

The house sits on an open, flat lot with an asphalt paved driveway to the south of the house leading to the barn. A metal picket fence extends from the southeast corner of the house to the driveway and along the southern edge of the driveway. As noted above, the rear yard is enclosed in a wood stockade privacy fence. A metal or vinyl sided shed is located to the northeast of the house behind the fence. The yard is primarily open grass lawn with a few trees and evergreen foundation plantings.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

White's History of Hanson states that this house was originally the home of Alexander Soper(1723-1801). Alexander Soper was born in Dorchester to Alexander Soper Sr. and the former Mary Price. He moved to Hanson, then Pembroke, by the time of his marriage to Mary Cox in 1747 and the house may have been built shortly thereafter. While the exact date of their move to this site in Hanson/Pembroke is not clear, the couple is buried together in Fern Hill Cemetery¹ and beginning with their eldest child, Alexander, Jr. (1750-1829), all their children were born in Pembroke. In 1797, Alexander sold the property to Eleazar Josselyn, who appears on the 1830 Smith Plan.² Eleazar Josselyn (1763 - 1868) had twenty-one children and lived here until his death. He was married first to Bethiah Bourne who died in 1806 and was remarried in 1807 to his second wife, Alice Wadsworth (nè Howland) (1780-1841). Together, Alice and Eleazar had Luther (1809-1859); Julius (1813-1901) and Issachar (1817-1888).³

Luther Josselyn married Jane Gurney (neè Reed) (1817-1881) on January 21, 1844. They had six children together: Luther Austin, Jane R., Charles Sumner, Sophronia, and Walter. In the 1850s, Luther worked as a tack maker. According to the 1860 Federal Census, after Luther's death in 1859, Jane supported her family working as a seamstress. The 1879 Walker Map lists "Mrs. Josselyn" as the property owner who is most likely Jane Josselyn.

After Jane's death, the siblings sold their portions of the property to their brother, Charles Sumner Josselyn in 1889.⁴ C. Josselyn is listed as the owner on the 1903 Richards Atlas, at which point there are three buildings shown on the parcel. In 1880, Charles was a shoemaker but he is listed as a farmer when he married Margaret L.

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/20839574/mary-soper>

² The Plymouth County Book of Deeds, Book 82, Page 162 shows Alexander Soper selling the property to Eleazar Josselyn in May 1797 for \$880 dollars.

³ Julius occupied the house across the street at 312 East Washington Street with his wife Georgiana M.W. Oldham (1830-1895).

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Josselyn in 1895. White's History of Hanson lists Charles Josselyn as the current resident, but Emma and George Sanford had purchased the property from Margaret Josselyn, Charles Josselyn's widow and only heir, in 1920.⁵

The property exchanged hands several times between 1933 and 1937 before ending up with Herald J. Danner in 1940.⁶ Emma and George Sanford also sold a portion of the property to their son, Carl Sanford, in 1933 and a portion was taken by the County Commissioners by instrument in 1936.⁷ Hazel and Donald Porter purchased the property from Herald J Danner in 1950.⁸ After Donald's death, Hazel sold the property to Rita Marshall in 1971. She divided her property into two lots, selling Lot 1, the portion with the house, to Rande and Ann Leibowitz in 1983.⁹ The current owner, David O'Neill, purchased the property from the Leibowitzes in 1992.¹⁰

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⁴ Plymouth County Book of Deeds, Book 581, Page 429

⁵ Plymouth County Book of Deeds, Book 1361, Page 416-417

⁶ Plymouth County Book of Deeds, Book 1787, Page 35

⁷ Plymouth County Book of Deeds, Book 1714, Page 251

⁸ Plymouth County Book of Deeds, Book 2097, Page 306

⁹ Plymouth County Book of Deeds, Book 5335, Page 344

¹⁰ Plymouth County Book of Deeds, Book 11377, Page 181

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